

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR ZEV YAROSLAVSKY

November 5, 2013

Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency, known as AAT Deficiency or Alpha-1, is one of the most common serious hereditary disorders in the world and can result in life-threatening liver disease in children and adults or in lung disease in adults

It has been identified in virtually all populations, and it's estimated that 100,000 Americans have this deficiency, passed on by two parents who both carry the deficient gene. As many as 25 million more Americans carry a single deficient gene that causes Alpha-1, and may pass that gene on to their children.

Alpha-1 is widely underdiagnosed and misdiagnosed, with fewer than 10% of those predicted to have Alpha-1 confirmed with that condition. It can take an average of five doctors over the course of seven years from the first appearance of symptoms to make a proper diagnosis, which merely requires a simple blood test; and

It is vitally important to increase public awareness and encourage early detection of this serious hereditary and misdiagnosed disorder. Toward that end, a nationwide education campaign has been launched for the month of November to better inform the public and the medical community about Alpha-1 and the options for detection and treatment for those affected by the condition.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors hereby proclaims November 2013 as "Alpha-1 Awareness Month" throughout the County of Los Angeles,

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KNABE _____

ANTONOVICH _____

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and all residents are encouraged to inform themselves about this genetic condition and support policies and programs designed to help those born with, or carrying, the gene for it.

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